

**Breaking the Disaster Cycle:
Future Directions in Natural Hazard Mitigation**

***State Planning Assistance for Mitigation at
the Local Level;
Assessing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans***

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State Planning Assistance for Mitigation at the Local Level; Assessing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

➤ Objectives:

- 9.1 Understand the context for statewide hazard mitigation planning assistance to local governments
- 9.2 Discuss the issues encountered in mandating local hazard mitigation plans
- 9.3 Identify the problems of developing local hazard mitigation commitment and capacity

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➤ Objectives:

- 9.4 Understand the nature of local hazard mitigation plans
- 9.5 Discuss best practice criteria for evaluating local hazard mitigation plans
- 9.6 Participate in an exercise to assess a local hazard mitigation plan in terms of its ability to bring about effective hazard mitigation

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➤ **Objective 9.1**

- Understand the context for statewide hazard mitigation planning assistance to local governments:
 - All mitigation is local
 - Current local government requirements
 - Understanding DMA 2000

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➤ **Figure 9.1 Context for State Hazard Mitigation Planning Assistance to Local Governments**

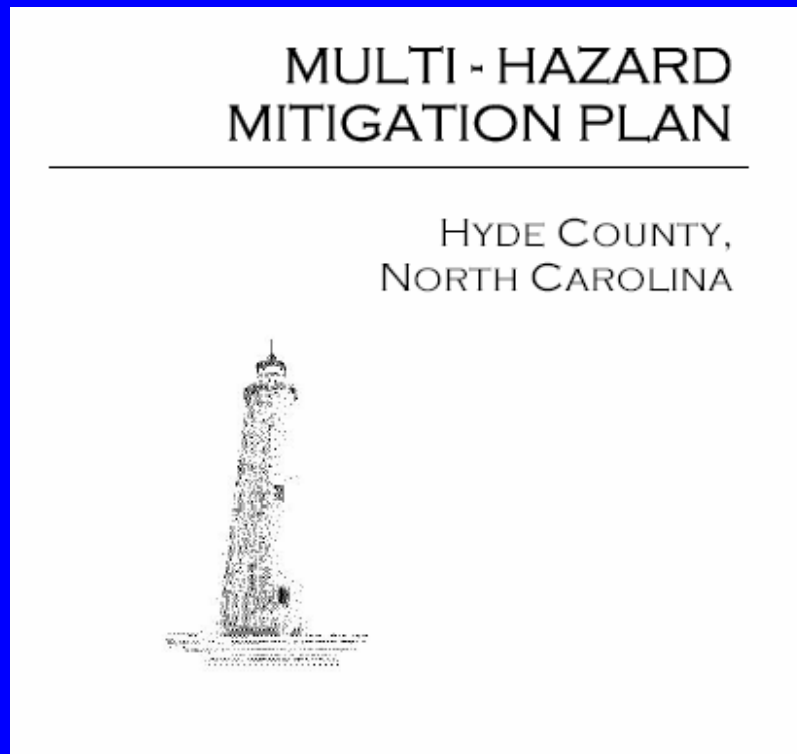
- Local governments work with state and federal agencies in the intergovernmental arena under a shared governance model to:
 - assess hazards,
 - prepare and maintain land use and emergency response plans,
 - facilitate work of post-disaster hazard mitigation teams,
 - prepare project applications and supporting documentation,
 - if funded, act as “sub grantee” (or sponsor) of approved projects

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➤ **Objective 9.2**

- Discuss the issues encountered in mandating local hazard mitigation plans:
 - Partially funded mandates
 - Desire for local independence
 - “Commitment conundrum”
 - ✓ Coercive mandates inspire resistance
 - ✓ Collaborative mandates lack force
 - Providing adequate risk and alternatives information
 - Social factors

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One of North Carolina's first FEMA approved local multi-hazard mitigation plans (Source: NC Department of Emergency Management)

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➤ **Objective 9.3**

- Identify the problems of developing local hazard mitigation commitment and capacity:
 - Overcoming the commitment conundrum
 - ✓ Improve plan quality
 - ✓ Build supporting constituencies
 - ✓ Provide technical assistance:
 - » Regional agencies
 - » Hazard mitigation circuit riders
 - » Consulting firms

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FEMA provides training for local planners. (Source: FEMA)

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➤ **Objective 9.4**

- Understanding the nature of local hazard mitigation plans:
 - Planning process
 - Risk assessment
 - Mitigation strategy
 - Plan maintenance procedures

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➤ **Figure 9.4 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Elements**

➤ **Planning Process:** Documentation of the planning process

➤ **Risk assessment**

- Identifying hazards
- Profiling hazard events
- Assessing vulnerability: identifying assets
- Assessing vulnerability: estimating potential losses
- Assessing vulnerability: analyzing development trends
- Multi-jurisdictional risk assessment

➤ **Mitigation strategy**

- Local hazard mitigation goals
- Identification and analysis of mitigation measures
- Implementation of mitigation measures
- Multi-jurisdictional mitigation strategy.

➤ **Plan maintenance procedures**

- Monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan
- Implementation through existing programs
- Continued public involvement

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➤ **Objective 9.5**

- Discuss best practice criteria for evaluating local hazard mitigation plans:
 - Requirement satisfaction
 - Context compatibility
 - Capacity development
 - Commitment development
 - Technical quality
 - Other criteria?

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➤ **Figure 9.5** Best Practice Criteria for Evaluating Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

- Requirement satisfaction
 - Is the content complete?
- Context compatibility
 - How likely is jurisdiction to be able to carry out the plan?
- Capacity development.
 - How adequate is hazard mitigation capacity and how are gaps to be filled?
- Commitment development
 - How adequate are efforts to educate public, to engage decision-makers, and to build constituencies?
- Technical quality
 - Are risk assessment and mitigation strategy professionally prepared and logically linked?

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Local and federal interaction at EMI. (Source: FEMA)

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➤ **Objective 9.6**

- Participate in an exercise to assess a local hazard mitigation plan in terms of its ability to bring about effective hazard mitigation:
 - *Examine 2000 Pitt County, North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan*

Pitt County, North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan

(Source: NC DEM)

